



Exploring biomimicry with microscopes

What can we learn from science and nature to build our future cities? Over millions of years, nature has found ways to solve many challenges of its own. We can get inspiration from these natural designs to solve human challenges. This concept is called biomimicry.

In this activity, we will build our own microscope, which will help us to see small structures found in nature and get inspired!

Building your own microscope

YOU WILL NEED:

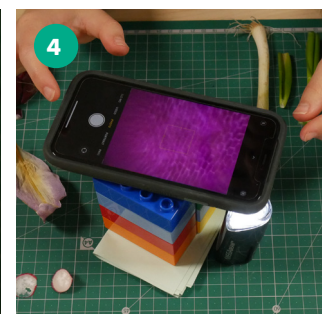
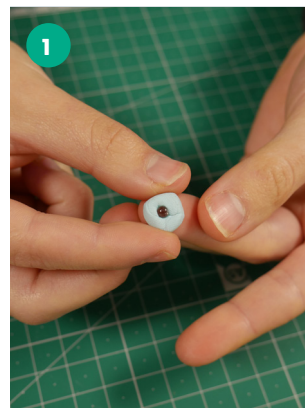
- Lens (3mm glass bead or taken from laser pointer)
- Something sticky (like blue tac)
- Smartphone or tablet camera
- Flashlight (or similar)
- Specimen (object to look at from nature)

1. Take the blue tac or putty, roll it out, then wrap it around the bead lens.

2. Stick the lens to your smartphone camera. Make sure not to block the view through the lens when you stick it to your smartphone camera.

3. Place your outdoor object on top of the flashlight (let's call this a specimen). Your specimen must be thin enough for light to pass through.

5. Take a look! You may have to move your phone camera closer or further from the specimen to focus your microscope. You might also need to balance your phone on something to get it in the right position.



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